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December 4, 1903

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

Report from Honolulu.

Chief Quarantine Officer Cofer reports, November 14, as follows:
 Outgoing quarantine transactions at this port for the week ended November 14, 1903:

Number of vessels inspected and bills of health issued	8
Vessels disinfected	1
Cabin passengers inspected	8
Steerage passengers inspected	0
Crew inspected	62
Pieces of steerage passengers' baggage disinfected and passed.....	0
Pieces of crew's baggage disinfected and passed	112
Hides and skins disinfected	0
Pieces of freight disinfected	0
Passengers and crew declined certifications on account of	0

INDIA.

Reports from Calcutta—Water supply of Calcutta—Plague and cholera.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Sprague reports October 27 and November 5, as follows:

As will be seen from the last annual report (1902) of the health officer, forwarded under a separate cover, the drinking water of this city is filtered, and semiweekly examinations, both bacteriological and chemical, are regularly made. The efficiency of the filtration plant is proved by the almost complete absence of water-borne diseases among the European population. Cholera constantly present among the natives is due to the drinking of surface water from tanks, reservoirs, and wells. The water taken on board the ships at this port is probably above the average purity of other ports.

Health Officer Cook informs me that the plague curve for the present year, although not completely made out, practically follows that of the two previous years given in the report, and that is about midway between as I have indicated by a cross. At present cases are rarely seen alive. Owing to the opposition on the part of the natives post-mortem examinations are rarely performed. No attempts are now made to isolate or segregate the cases. This was tried, but it led to concealment, and the removal in some cases came near to causing riots and the plan was abandoned. In the face of such opposition it can readily be seen that little, if anything, could be accomplished in the way of preventing the spread of this disease. The general impression seems to be that the abandonment of the plan was a wise procedure.

Strange to say, the cholera curve follows the plague curve fairly closely, more cases occurring during the winter than during the summer months. Just why such should be the case is not explained by local physicians. There must be some cause, and it may be apparent later.

* * * * *

Official notice of my arrival and mission has been forwarded to the proper authorities.

The use of rat guards has not yet been ordered for all ships by the port health officer, and, in view of its value as a prevention against